

PRESIDENT MOUL: We have ceased debate, and I'll recognize Senator Landis for closing.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Madam President and members of the Legislature. I'd like to respond to a couple of arguments that have been used today, summarize quickly and then get on with the business of voting. Senator Kristensen made the point that we will be looking at the income tax possibly later this session, if we need to. And my response to that is that we both serve on the Revenue Committee, and if he's been able to detect a desire to go to the income tax this session in that committee, I sure haven't. The revenue package that we're getting ready to send out to the floor doesn't have any mention of the income tax. It is possible we might come back to it, and I think the argument is we can't go to the well more than once on income tax policy changes, but, in fact, there is no desire to. I don't have a desire to raise general income tax rates this year. I'm going to guess that there are very, very few of us that have a big desire to do that. In fact, I think what we want to do is we want to cut our way out of this problem as best we can. And if we have...the revenue package that is going to be forthcoming does not include a general income tax package. I don't think we're going to have to go to the well more than once, in reply to that line of argument. Senator Withem does raise a fair question that, look, 57,000 bucks is 57,000 bucks, it's the normal rule, this isn't an emergency per se. My theory is that the standard of emergency application is too high, in fact, the reason for the rule I don't think is present here because this is not a revenue raising or revenue losing proposition as a general budget balancing concept. We, earlier today, this very day, made a 167,000 dollar spending choice. It happened to be in LB 305 and it wasn't a General Fund appropriation, but was a spending choice, it was \$167,000 of fund transfer in that bill, and we made that without blinking an eye a little earlier today. And I think that if we can do that one, there's no reason to fail to address the need for equity in the tax system today. It's true that, as Senator Moore said, we don't know what we're going to do at the very end of the session. But I can tell you this, that if you're going to want to raise tax revenues, you're going to want to find a bill that has a willing introducer and sponsor to do it with, and that's not me on this bill. There is one, it's LB 21, it's sitting in the Revenue Committee. If you want to get there, that's the bill to use. I would urge the body to suspend the rules. In fact, I understand that there is a rule here, but for the most part I think the reason for the